

Letter from the Interim Texas CIO

Today, technology is an essential ingredient to running government in the State of Texas, and ensuring citizens have access to their government needs is critical. From obtaining an occupational license to accessing medical records or to providing homeland security, almost every service the government provides relies on a technology component.

As the technology landscape quickly evolves from legacy systems and processes to cloud services and the internet of things, it is imperative that agencies keep up with these changes to continue to provide services effectively and efficiently. If not, we jeopardize the security and delivery of government services to an ever increasing population. However, I recognize that competing budgetary priorities do not always allow the evolution of technology in government to occur. State agency IT departments are required to maintain daily operations while often underfunded, understaffed, or both. These challenges strike a balance between innovation and tradition. Therefore, government is often seen as primarily focused operations, on doing what needs to be done and slow to advance technology.

Through our partnership with state agencies, governmental entities, and the private sector, DIR has produced the [State Strategic Plan for Information Resources Management](#) (SSP) to assist agencies in prioritizing the evolution and adoption of technology. As agencies, knowing where you are with your capabilities maturity is important to move forward with the innovative technologies. Allow this document to guide you down the path of maturity, and by prioritizing within these five strategic goals, technology will enable you to do more with less. Therefore, I encourage each agency to:

- assess your capabilities maturity for each strategic goal and move toward implementation of the actionable goals listed;
- collaborate with your fellow IT colleagues in other agencies to share best practices, services, and resources; and
- partner with the private sector to leverage their expertise and solutions.

The State of Texas is at a pivotal point in adoption of IT resources, but we are keenly aware of the need to carry forward the critical services that state government delivers at a cost that is taxpayer-friendly. DIR greatly appreciates the time and contributions of our partners and stakeholders in developing these strategic goals and roadmap for implementation. We remain committed to collaborating with agencies and education leaders to support progress toward meeting these goals.

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Texas Department of Information Resources